

**From:** [Yvonne Leutwyler](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen.anna.mckinnon@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.anna.mckinnon@akleg.gov); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#)  
**Subject:** Funding for University of Alaska, sustainable energy programs  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:20:55 PM

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Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a Homer resident with full time employment, and a part-time, non-traditional (distance education) U of A student in interdisciplinary studies, sustainable energy.

The State has proposed to cut funding to the University due to budget constraints. While I understand that some cuts are necessary, I am concerned about cutting programs that relate to **sustainable and renewable energy technologies**. Alaska will need to invest heavily in renewable energy resources and infrastructure in the coming years to reduce energy dependence on fossil fuels. Rural areas, many currently being powered by diesel generators, have great potential for renewable energy microgrids.

A high demand for professionals in the field of sustainable energy is likely across the country. Alaska will have an advantage by training **local** individuals in installation, maintenance and management of the technology.

Both UAF Bristol Bay Campus, and UAA Mat-Su have been offering renewable/sustainable energy classes; some of those classes and/or programs have been suspended due to budget cuts. **Please consider supporting and expanding such programs when voting on budget decisions.**